

what will procure your father's consent to our marriage, and make us happy ! This idea infuses joy into their souls.—They view the gold with eagerness, almost distrustful of their eyes ; sometimes they quit the shining object, and look on each other with tenderness and transport. Their first surprize being abated, they count the sum ; it amounted to one hundred pounds. They are enchanted with their welcome treasure. Ah, Lucetta, cries Perrin, your father can no longer oppose my happiness. Lucetta cannot find words to answer him, but her eyes are animated and eloquent ; she presses her lover's hand with rapture. Perrin is now certain that his bliss will soon be ratified : he embraces his mistress with adour and ecstasy : he is absorbed in the idea of his approaching felicity.

Amiable Lucetta, cries he, how dear is this fortune to me, for I shall share it with you ! —They tie up their treasure, and proceed towards Lucetta's father's, for they were determined to shew it immediately to the old man. They were now near this house, when on a sudden Perrin stopped. By this gold, says he, we expect to be happy ; but is it our's ? It undoubtedly belongs to a traveller : the fair at Woodston is just ended. Some merchant has probably lost it in his return home, at this very moment, whilst we are giving ourselves

ourselves up to joy, he perhaps, is a prey to despair.—Your reflection is terrible, answered Lucetta, the unhappy man without doubt is in the utmost distress ; can we enjoy what belongs to him ? You make me tremble. We were carrying this money to your father, replied Perrin ; through its influence, he would unquestionably have consented to make us happy : but could we have been happy in usurping the property of another ? Let us go to the rector of our parish ; he has always shewn me great humanity ; he recommended me to the master whom I now serve ; I should take no material step without consulting him. The rector was at home. Perrin gave him the bag which he had found. He owned that he at first looked upon it as a gift from heaven : he acquainted him with his love of Lucetta, and with the obstacle which his poverty had been to their union.

The good man was all attention, he gave them looks of paternal affection ; their behaviour awoke the sensibility of his soul ; he saw the ardour of a mutual passion glisten in their eyes ; he admired their passion, but he more admired their probity. He applauded their generous conduct.—Perrin, said he, cherish these sentiments as long as you live. The consciousness of them will make you happy, and they will draw down from Providence a blessing on your endeavours. We shall find
the